

WETTABLE POLYOLEFIN FIBERS AND FABRICS

Abstract of the Disclosure

Polyolefin woven and nonwoven fibers, filaments and fabrics made therefrom which comprise a melt blend which comprises

- (a) a polyolefin; and
- (b) at least one compound of the formula (I)



wherein

R_1 is a straight or branched chain alkyl of 22 to 40 carbon atoms and the hydrophilic oligomer is a homo- or co-oligomer consisting of monomer units derived from monomers selected from the group consisting of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, epichlorhydrin, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, ethylene imine, caprolactone, vinyl alcohol and vinyl acetate;

and wherein the hydrophilic oligomer consists of between 2 and 10 monomer units,

exhibit excellent durable wettability. The fabrics are useful in disposable diapers, training pants, feminine napkins, tampons, incontinence care products, wet and dry wipes, wound dressings, surgical capes, filter media, battery separators and the like.